

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable prosthesis for repairing hernia defects, comprising a basic structure ~~(6)~~ of meshed, in particular knitted, layer material ~~(1)~~ which is deformable into a ~~plug~~plug-type insert capable of being positioned in the hernia defect, characterized

- 5                   -     ~~in that~~wherein the basic structure ~~(6)~~ is a blank ~~(10)~~ of the layer material ~~(1)~~ of a shape ~~preferably~~ preferable ranging from round to oval, which is placed in concertina pleats ~~(3)~~ that are parallel to a direction of extension ~~(2)~~ to form pleated layers; and
- 10                   -     ~~in that~~wherein the basic structure ~~(6)~~, in its undeformed position of rest, is approximately hourglass-shaped in a plan view.

2. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the fixing arrangement is a fixing thread ~~(5)~~ that is stitched through the pleated layers.

3. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a fixing seam ~~(4)~~ that is formed by the fixing thread ~~(5)~~ runs crosswise of ~~the~~a direction of extension ~~(2)~~ of the pleats and crosswise of ~~the~~a principal plane ~~(H)~~ of extension of the undeformed prosthesis.

4. (Currently amended) A prosthesis according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, ~~characterized in~~

~~that~~wherein the thread of layer material and the fixing thread (5) consist of ~~the~~a same plastic material, preferably polypropylene, and have ~~the~~a same thread thickness, preferably 100 dtex.

5. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the basic structure (6) is fixed in its deformed, plug-type configuration by connection of adjoining lateral-edge areas (8).

6. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the connection of the adjoining lateral-edge areas (8) is produced by a seam (9), preferably of the same thread material as the layer-material thread.

7. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized by~~comprising a metal-containing, continuous, biocompatible coating.

8. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the coating is a titanium-containing coating of a thickness of less than 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably 5 to 700 nm.

9. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the layer material (1) for the basic structure (6) is laser-beam cut to size.

10. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim  
1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein two basic structures ~~(6)~~ are placed crosswise one on top of the  
other and joined to each other.

11. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim  
1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the blank ~~(10)~~, not yet pleated, of the basic structure ~~(6)~~ has an  
outer contour ranging from round to oval with a constriction ~~(11)~~ of hourglass shape in the  
central area.